that?

- A. There was a conversation that Dr. Carter had with a person not associated with the school district that related to my teaching at Southlawn, that later provided me with the premise that he's discussing you with other people and he has a problem with you.
- Q. And he was talking to this person about your teaching at Southlawn?
- A. He was talking to this individual about the incident that happened, and that he didn't blame me, he would have slapped the shit out of that child, too. Which I was highly outraged, because I did not hit the child. And I resent the fact that it was communicated outside of the central office to other individuals who could or could not have been impressionable at that time towards me.
- Q. Who did he tell that to?
- A. Mr. Bill Mann (phonetic), who's a salesperson at Buckelew's Clothing for

Men.

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- Q. Okay. But has anybody relayed any conversations where he talked about your mother's past grievances or your lawsuits? I guess you hadn't filed one at the time he was there --
- A. No.
- Q. -- so let's focus on your mother. Okay.

  All right. I mean, when your mother went in to talk to him, what did your mother tell you that Dr. Carter said?
- A. Mother told me they had a conversation about their children and how you want the best for your children. And Mom talked to him about how hard that her and my father worked to educate us, my brother and I, and things of that nature and that there's a lot of maturity that has taken place with Melvin. There's a lot more maturity to take place. And I just need you, if you will, to consider allowing him to be rehired. And the

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conversation, her meeting, her conference with him, it wasn't even an It was not even an hour. said it was very, you know, polite, and it was -- she said when she left and she -- we talked. We were both under the assumption that, you know, if what Barker said was true about he can get you hired in an hour or a couple of hours, you know, you're getting ready to come back to Montgomery County.

- So did you feel like at that point that Q. Dr. Carter did a favor for you or did something to help you out? He certainly could have said no, correct?
- I want to go on the Record and say, when Α. you're doing what's right and what's fair and what you do to all employees, a favor shouldn't have anything to do with If allowing me to be rehired was a practice that you followed with all employees, wonderful. But if it was a special consideration you were having to

give to me for whatever reason, I don't see where I should consider that as a favor. We can count it as a professional courtesy, but I won't go on Record and say it was a favor.

- O. Okay. That's fair enough, Mr. Lowe.
- A. Thank you.

- Q. Let's clarify this for the Record: I understand that you deny that you hit a child at Southlawn, but it's true, is it not, that those allegation were made against you, and that was not the first time that a student had complained about your treatment of them?
- 15 A. Now, that is not true.
- Q. Okay. So you would say that was the first time?
  - A. The first time I ever had a complaint, written or oral, that a child alleged that I hit he or she or it was this Southlawn incident. I have never been reprimanded by a principal, a site administrator, or a central office

- administrator of any misconduct, 1 verbally or physically, towards a child. 2
  - When you were at Daisy Lawrence the Q. first time, was there ever an incident where you were accused of paddling children without permission?
  - No.Α.

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- Okay. 8 Q.
- And may I go on Record to finish 9 Α. answering your question. I said no, 10 because I never from Ms. Jeter or a 11 central office person or any other 12 person in authority or capacity ever 13 chastened me, because I never did such 14 without the sanctions of a parent and/or 15 an administrator, never. 16
  - So if someone said that there was an Ο. issue with you paddling children without permission at Daisy Lawrence, you would just say that's not true?
  - They never -- it was never communicated Α. to me, yes, ma'am. No, so that's not true.

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- Q. Okay. What about at Fitzpatrick, were you ever accused of an incident regarding physically handling a child or being overly physical with a child?
  - A. No. And I can elaborate on the Fitzpatrick situation. There was a situation when I physically removed a child from a seat in the lunchroom. And Ms. Thompson never reprimanded me, because she was present when I moved the child. I picked the child up and moved the child. And I went to her and told her what happened and the reason I moved him. And I even phoned the parents, the father and informed him of what I did and why I did it. No, there was never any reprimand, verbally or written, that I inappropriately handled a child.
    - Q. And I wasn't asking if you were reprimanded, I was just trying to --
  - A. Yes, ma'am.
- 22 Q. So if there was -- if there is any kind of information regarding the handling of

Page 7 of 38 128 a child at Fitzpatrick, you would know 1 what they were referring to, but you 2 would just disagree that you handled the 3 situation inappropriately? 4 I know exactly. 5 Α. What they're referring to? 6 Q. What they're referring to. 7 Α. Okay. So when you went your third year 8 Q. to Southlawn, and if you'll look at the 9 documents that are marked as Defense 10 Exhibit 3 and glance over those, I 1 1 believe that these are the documents 12 that refer to the incident that we've 13 been referring to? 14 (Whereupon Defendants' 15 Exhibit No. 3 was marked 16 for identification and 17 attached hereto.) 18 (Witness reviewed 19 documents.) 20

21 Yes. Α.

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I guess my question to you is that Q. regardless of what your position is as

to whether or not that you acted inappropriately, it's certainly undisputed that a child said you did, and there was an investigation, and you were actually suspended as a result of it, correct?

- With pay, yes. Yes. Α.
- Okay. And the year that you were Q. nonrenewed followed this Southlawn year?
- Yes, it did. 10 Α.

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- Okay. And you were then told that you Q. needed to apologize or made amends with Dr. Carter to get a job back with the school system, and your mother went on your behalf to speak with him, and after that conference, you were eventually hired back in the Fall of 2003; is that correct?
- I need to answer that in detail. 19 Α.
  - Okay. Q.
- With those charges that took place at Α. Southlawn, those are charges that when you read what Mr. Barker scribed, they 23

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were unfounded. And I was found, not only by the investigation of the school board, but the City of Montgomery found me not guilty and dismissed those charges. And I was placed back in my position as a teacher, not only at the request of the central office, but the principal requested that I return.

- Q. But -- I'm sorry. Go ahead. I apologize.
- At the end of the year, that school 11 Α. term, the nonrenewal came from 12 central -- well, all of them are 13 generated out of the central office, but 14 Ms. Tina Minott did not issue one for 15 My termination letter came the day 16 after all of the other teachers' 17 termination letters came. And she 18 admitted to me on several -- on more 19 than one occasion, Melvin, I didn't do 2.0 this. 21

Even after I got the nonrenewal and I applied following the

procedures to be rehired at Southlawn Middle, she then again cried on my shoulder. And she said, Melvin, they won't let me rehire you.

Ms. Minott wrote me letters of recommendation for other school districts to attain employment. I then went to Bullock County, because I had no other choice. I was forced. I couldn't gain employment in Montgomery County.

And when I returned to

Montgomery County, it was a year and
some months after I was retaliated
against and also discriminated against
with the nonrenewal, the pink slip. My
mother spoke to Dr. Carter on my behalf,
because he would not meet with us
together.

- Q. Why didn't you meet with him by yourself?
- A. Well, when we initially asked for a conference and he said that he wouldn't meet with us together, Mother was then

the first person they offered a conference to. And then after Mother met with him, I was never extended a conference.

- Q. Is it fair to say that during your career with Montgomery public schools, that your Mother often made communications with people for you or on your behalf or with you?
- A. My Mother does or did and will do what any other mother would do. She communicated with persons with reference to me, my brother, for whatever reason needed.
- Q. Let's look at this real quick, because I want to clarify something.
- A. Okay.

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18 Q. This letter actually says that the

findings were inconclusive as to Count

I. That Count II was verified, which is

where you were accused of using

profanity and demeaning language in

addressing students. And I'm not asking

you to say you did that.

A. Yes.

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- Q. But that the conclusions of the investigation says that it found you did that, and that you were suspended for five days. And these documents reflect that you signed an agreement that as part of your punishment, there was going to be this letter of reprimand in your file and a five-day suspension?
- 11 A. Yes, ma'am.
  - Q. And so, I mean, do you disagree with that's what the resolution of this was? I mean, you're saying that you were found clear and put back to work. I didn't see any documentation where this was undone or changed. It appears to me that you were given a letter of reprimand and a five-day suspension for your conduct in that incident.
  - A. To answer that, you can't unchange the charges. The charges are -- I mean, it's documented with the city that the

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charges were thrown out of city court. That merely suggests that an investigation -- in my terminology, was suggesting that an investigation was done, and that on two of the charges, we were inconclusive. That's a nice way of saying, we think you did it, but we can't prove you did it. The last charge is saying that we feel that you did it, and we have evidence or we have some tangible documentation that you did do The only thing, me signing that, is agreeing to that going into my personnel folder and accepting the five-day suspension. I did not admit to any of that.

- Q. Do you disagree that there were witnesses that said you acted like that towards the children?
- 20 A. I still disagree.
- Q. Okay. So you just believe that those witnesses gave false information?
  - A. The witnesses -- because an -- the

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initial investigation was conducted -it was conducted by Ms. Tina Minott. And she communicated to me, Melvin, I think you will be back to work the next Then when that investigation did week. not satisfy Mr. Carter, he then had Mr. Barker to reinvestigate, which was where you had conflicting stories with the students.

- Do you agree that as the superintendent, that he would be -- that he would take allegations like this very seriously and that he would make sure there was a thorough investigation? Do you disagree with how he handled that?
- I disagree. And being that I'm also Α. certified in administration and I know policy and procedure, I disagree with if you have your competent administrator that you appointed and placed in the school as the instructional leader, and you ask -- that person provided you with an investigation, it just appears odd

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that you would then on the same breath order another investigation. And then when you order another investigation, your findings are a little different on two -- I mean, the same on two of the charges, but a little bit different on the other.

And I asked that, because during that same incident, there was a female teacher, a white female teacher at Harrison Elementary School who was found guilty, who admitted to slamming a child's head on a desk. investigation was done by the principal, and that teacher was placed on leave, as I, brought back off of leave, but that teacher did not receive a nonrenewal at the end of the year. That teacher was advised the same as I was, to admit to what you did. But in my situation, I was advised, Just admit to what you did. And, Melvin, just let them curse you -let Mr. Carter and Dr. Barker curse you

- 22 Q. Who was your attorney?
- 23 A. Attorney Brenton Dean.

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have any students to teach. prescribed curriculum for reading intervention that we were to implement never materialized. It never manifested. There was never any full implementation of the program. It. was communicated to me that part of your punishment, Brother Lowe, is I got to move you. I have to. I've got to move you out of the front office, where my office was. I was moved into a classroom, which I set up like a classroom, slash, an office. And what did I do every day all day?

o. I don't know.

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- A. I don't either. That is -- I mean,
  that's just how humiliating -- the first
  year was whatever it was, but the second
  year was very humiliating.
- Q. Isn't that partly because your job no longer existed at the school which is why they tried to -- one of the reasons they tried to nonrenew you. And then

when they messed up your nonrenewal and had to put you back at work, there, quite frankly, wasn't an exact job for you to go into? Wasn't that part of the problem?

- A. That could have been. It was never relayed to me that way.
- Q. Did you get paid?

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A. I did. But I was being paid to perform a particular duty. And what I thought I was supposed to do was what I did the previous year, which was I was the reading coach.

when the curriculum changed, I still knew what to do. I knew the program, because I had implemented that program the prior summer in the summer program. And I made complaints to the central office, the students are not being serviced. And I think a lot of that, my complaints to the central office, we need the material, the students are not being serviced, I'm not

going to turn this -- I'm not going to lie about this assessment. You know, a lot of that I feel played into some of the other -- the string of retaliations.

Because the second year with twenty-five students, we never received the curriculum, the teachers were never trained on the program. I was certified to train them. I was never given an opportunity to train them. And it was -- you know, what did I do, anything Dr. Owens asked me to do, but it wasn't teaching and instruction. And the central office was very aware of this, because I communicated this to quite a few people. All of the superintendents knew.

- Q. Did you ever talk to Jimmy Barker about what was going on there the last year?
- A. I talked to Mr. Jimmy Barker, Ms. Lois

  Johnson, Mr. Mike Looney. I even

  conferenced with Dr. Purcell.
- Q. Daisy Lawrence is gone now, right?

- 1 A. The building is still there, but the program that it housed --
  - O. That's what I mean.
  - A. Yes, ma'am.

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- Q. In the summer between -- in the Summer of '04, before you started that last year, just to give you your bearings, the summer before your last year with the school system --
- 10 A. Gotcha.
  - Q. -- did you have any conversations with Jimmy Barker or Mike Looney or Carolyn Hicks or Lois Johnson, any of those people, about what your placement was going to be or where you were going to go or what jobs you wanted to work, as opposed to going back to Daisy Lawrence, any of those conversations -- any conversations with those people? Excuse me.
  - 21 A. Yes. May I elaborate on those conversations?
  - 23 Q. Yes, yes.

1	A. The conversations stemmed anywhere from,
2	will I be going back to Daisy Lawrence;
3	what is the outcome of some of these
4	other jobs I have applied for; what are
5	the outcomes of some of these jobs that
6	I have interviewed for. So the
7	conversations were yes. They were
8	very direct with specific meaning, with
9	specific concern. And they were lengthy
10	in some situations.

Do you know on -- do you know when Q. anybody with the Montgomery public school system would have learned that you'd filed an EEOC charge?

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The first person who mentioned it to me, Α. and it blew me out of the water that this person would know about it mother, of course, knew. When Dr. Owens mentioned to me that Mr. Barker informed him of what I did -- now, Dr. Owens didn't tell me when he mentioned it. said, Brother Lowe, you didn't think I I was knocked out of the knew that.

- water, because I had not mentioned that under directions of AEA. That had not been communicated to anyone.
  - Q. And was that during your last year of teaching there?
  - $\mathbf{A}$ . That was that last year.
    - Q. So the first you would have known about Montgomery public schools knowing, is Dr. Owens telling you during your last year of school there?
- 11 A. That he knew.

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- Q. That he knew. How many weeks or months into the school year before you had that conversation with him?
- As you go back and look at one of those 15 documents with the e-mail I sent to 16 Dr. Purcell, it was -- the day we 17 received the pink slip notifications at 18 Daisy Lawrence, it was -- I don't want 19 to say the wrong thing. It was either 20 the day before or the day after. It was 21 right there. It was 22
  - Q. So it was at the end of your last --

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1	Α.	The end of that last year. It was
2		either the day before or the day after.
3		I would have to look back at the notes,
4		but it was right there.
5	Q.	But you had actually filed something at
6		the beginning of, I guess, the Summer of
7		04?
8	A.	Those were grievances, AEA grievances, I
9		believe. They were on the PR&R form.
10		MR. PATTY: Yeah, but
11	-	that she's talking
12		about something you
13		filed with Montgomery
14		County, not something
15	5	you filed with AEA.
16	5	THE WITNESS: I would have
1.	7	to look at the dates.
1 8	В	MR. PATTY: Yeah.
1	9 A.	I would have to look at the dates.
2	0 2.	Okay. That's fine.
. 2	1 A.	I'm sorry.

- Let me show you what I'll mark as 22 Q. Defense Exhibit 5, and ask if that's a 23

313 to put words in your mouth -- would your 1 Complaint then not be -- it's not about 2 the nonrenewal so much as not 3 reassigning you somewhere? 4 MR. PATTY: Object to the 5 form. 6 Go ahead. 7 The nonrenewal was just a process. 8 assigning me anywhere was the action. 9 Let me show you Defense Exhibit 30. 10 This seems to be an application for a 11 summer school program, what a blank 1.2 application looks like, and then the 13 general information on the program of 14 Is part of your claim that you 15 were also discriminated against by not 16 getting the summer school job in the 17 year of 2005? 18 (Whereupon Defendants' 19 Exhibit No. 30 was marked 2.0 for identification and 21 attached hereto.) 22 (Witness reviewed document.) 23

Yes. Α.

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- Do you have any jobs in particular that 2 Ο. you allege to have not received in the 3 Summer of 2005 as a result of race or 4 sex in retaliation, and, I guess, now 5 retaliation for the lawsuit that you 6 filed, the EEOC charge lawsuit?
  - Yes. 8 Α.
- What particular jobs in the Okay. 9 Q. summer school program do you make that 10 claim about? 11
- In the summer school program, or in the 12 Α. entire program? Now, summer school 13 program is one. There are four others. 14
  - I'm sorry, I don't --What do you mean? Q.
- This was the first after the lawsuit was 16 Α. filed and Daisy Lawrence was closed. 1.7
- Right. And that's where I want us to go 18 now --19
- Okay. 20 Α.
- -- is the grouping of jobs 21 Q.
- During that summer. 22 Α.
- In each summer job and then Right. 23 Q.

that's the problem Melvin is having.

So, yes. Yes, I do.

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Okay. So when you were nonrenewed and you were not hired back and you went to Bullock County that year, and then we get into the next summer about the conversations that went on with the superintendent, between your mother, or your conversation with Barker and Johnson, it's your testimony that all of that happened, in part, because of the complaint against you at Southlawn, but also, in part, because of your mother suing the school board in the past?

MR. PATTY: Object to the

R. PATTY: Object to th

form.

Go ahead and answer.

A. Yes and no. Yes, out of retaliation because Mother filed a grievance against the school board in years past. Not for what happened at Southlawn, because what happened at Southlawn, I was vindicated.

1		I was not found guilty. I was targeted
2		because of my disposition that I took
3		with Mr. Barker, one of the
4		investigators, one of the lawyers that I
5		had at that time. And Mr. Carter did
6		not agree with my position. I did not
7		admit to doing what I knew I did not do.
8	Q.	Well, that's what I meant, just
9		something to do with that complaint?
10	Α.	Yes.
11	Q.	I didn't mean that
12	A.	Yes. But I just wanted to be able to
13		elaborate and lay everything for you.
14	Q	Well, what evidence do you have that
15		being nonrenewed at Southlawn, and then
16		these issues about being hired back
17		later, what evidence do you have that
18		that had anything to do with your
19		mother?
20	)	MR. PATTY: Object to the
2 1	L .	form.
22	2 .	Go ahead and
2	3	answer.

interviews, and because of a statement

Ms. Hicks made about my initial

interview with her, that I was very

belligerently arrogant, I took over the

interview, and he's just like his

mother, and nobody's going to hire him.

That is my reason for feeling that that

particular job with Ms. Sexton, that she

was influenced.

10 Q. I gotcha.

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- 11 A. Ms. Sexton later communicated to me,

  12 Melvin, what happened? I thought you

  13 wanted to come to Vaughn Road with me.
  - Q. When did Ms. Hicks tell somebody that you were arrogant, took over the interview, and just like your mother?
  - A. She made that statement to one of the secretaries in Human Resources, who relayed that message to my mother.
  - Q. And who's that secretary?
    - A. The secretary that relayed it to my mother was Ms. Bessie Townsend (phonetic).

1 Q. Betsy?

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- 2 A. Bessie Townsend.
- 3 Q. And she told your mother, who told you?
  - A. That Ms. Patricia Holden (phonetic) said that that's what Carolyn Hicks stated.

MR. PATTY: It's . . .

MRS. CARTER: I know. I

just realized I skipped
a step.

## BY MRS. CARTER:

- ${f Q}$ . Okay. Bessie Townsend told your mother that Pat . . .
- 13 A. Stated that Ms. Hicks stated that I was
  14 belligerently arrogant during the
  15 interview, that I took over the
  16 interview, and that's why nobody is
  17 going to hire him, because he's just
  18 like his mother.
  - Q. Okay. And what evidence do you have that that comment had to do with your mom filing a claim?

MR. PATTY: Object to the

form.

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Go ahead.

- Well, she hadn't murdered or killed Α. anybody, so I mean, why would she keep making mention of something, quote, just like her. I mean, is that in a negative manner, positive manner? But when you 6 constantly repeat it over and over, 7 negative connotations kind of tend to 8 cap it. 9
- Okay. The next one is Tina Minott, and 10 Q. you were actually hired by Tina Minott? 11
- 12 Yes. Α.
- The next one is Bullock County, so I 13 Q. guess now we've skipped forward to the 14 Summer of '02? 15
- Yes. 16 Α.

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And Julius Thomas was the principal, Keith Stewart, the superintendent, Lee Ballard, the assistant superintendent, and Saint T. Thomas, the superintendent, and then Ms. Octavia Miles. When you refer to all of those people, you're talking about the one job you got,

A. Again, this is showing a series of events leading to the last couple of incidents that were very -- that were more vivid than these.

- Q. Okay. And that's fine. And we'll get there, but I have to --
- 20 A. Okay. I understand.

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21 Q. Your attorney will explain to you. I have to trudge through it.

What evidence do you have that

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I couldn't call all of these off the top Α. of my head.

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- So do you know, sitting here today, what Q. the qualifications were of that person?
- Not off the top -- that's privileged Α. information. I wouldn't have that. 7
- Do you know what the race or the sex was 8 Q. of that person? 9
- Not without looking at the personnel 10 minutes. 11
- All right. What about at Brewbaker 12 Q. Junior High School, who got that job? 13
- I'm not sure. I would have to look at 14 Α. the personnel minutes. 15
- So sitting here today then, do you 16 maintain that you were more qualified 17 than either of those two individuals? 18
- In some instances, I probably would have 19 Α. been. 20
- Okay. And I understand that. But do 21 you maintain or can you tell us here 22 today that you were more qualified than 23

those two individuals?

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- A. I would have to know who those persons were and then rank their qualifications to mine.
- Q. Well, when you sent this letter on

  August 2nd saying that you had been -
  that you were a victim, or you don't use

  the word "victim," but the

  discriminatory practice of racial and

  gender discrimination, what jobs on this

  document were you referring to?
- A. We can go through a series of them.

When I sent this in, I either

had already reviewed or had reviewed the

personnel report to see if it

16 was either -- I can almost tell you

there were not that many black men, and

there probably were not that many black

women. And the documents will prove it.

If we go back to the personnel report --

Q. When you say "not that many" -- I

apologize, I'm not sure what -- not that

many meaning in reference to the jobs

that are on here?

1.1

- A. When you look on here, the ones that I did list who -- you know, the white female or white person received that job, just rule out there was a white person, it wasn't a black one. It was a white female. It wasn't a black female.
- Q. Well, do you feel like that if it was a white person, that that means you automatically were discriminated against based on your race?
- A. No, I'm not. That would be a factor.

  If I was, that would be an additional factor.
  - Q. The September 1st, 2003, it says you applied for Educational Specialist, Educational Technology Professional Development Program Coordinator, in Title I School-wide Instructional Assistant position. Did you group those together because they're similar in -- and excuse my ignorance -- but like they're similar in type or . . .

- They were -- and if I stand corrected, I 1 Α. think they were advertised at the same 2 time. 3
- Okay. Oh, for that date. I gotcha. Ο. And you were not granted an interview for any of those positions? 6
- No, I wasn't. 7 Α.

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- Is it your testimony that you had the 8 Q. qualifications and certifications to 9 fill any of those positions? 10
- Yes, it is. 11 Α.
- Okay. Do you know, sitting here today, 12 Q., who was awarded those positions? 13
  - I would have to look at the personnel Α. minutes. Because if you look at the year on here -- I would have to go back and look at the personnel minutes. But whatever I was looking at when I wrote this, it was substantial enough for me to be able to validate this.
    - Well, let me ask you this: Were there any jobs that you applied for that summer that you didn't include in this